THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims with a status identifier in parentheses.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~D~~ A decoder for processing Pay-TV data, ~~this~~ the decoder being associated to at least one removable security module by means of identification data contained in said decoder and in the security module, this decoder including a descrambling module, ~~wherein~~ wherein the decoder furthermore includes means to deactivate the processing of Pay-TV data as well as a counter acting on said deactivation means according to its content.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~D~~ The decoder according to claim 20, ~~wherein it furthermore includes~~ further including at least one memory containing specific identification data of a security module different to that to which the decoder is associated, and means for comparing the specific identification data stored in the memory with the identification data of the security module contained in the decoder, and ~~in that~~ wherein the counter is initialized by the means for comparing the identification data.

22.   (Currently Amended)   ~~D~~ The decoder according to claim 20, ~~wherein it includes~~ further including a deactivation value and means for comparing this deactivation value with the content of said counter.

23.   (Currently Amended)   ~~D~~ The decoder according to claim 22, ~~wherein~~ wherein the deactivation value is a duration, a date or a numerical value.

24.   (Currently Amended)   ~~D~~ The decoder according to claim 20, ~~wherein it includes~~ further including means for receiving a command acting on the content of said counter.

25.   (Currently Amended)   ~~D~~ The decoder according to claim 24 locally connected to a security module, ~~wherein said reception~~ wherein said receiving means receive a command from said security module, acting on the content of said counter.

26.   (Currently Amended)   A Pay-TV data management system including at least two decoders, each decoder being associated to at least one removable security module by means of identification data contained in said decoder and in said security module, these decoders including a descrambling module and means to deactivate the processing of the Pay-TV data, ~~wherein~~ wherein each of the decoders furthermore includes a counter that acts on said deactivation means, and ~~in that~~ at least one of the security

modules is declared as master and includes means for reinitializing said decoder counters.

27.   (Currently Amended)   ~~D~~ The data management system according to claim 26, ~~wherein~~ wherein each of the decoders include~~s~~ a memory containing identification data relative to the master security module and means for comparing the identification data stored in said memory with the identification data of the security module contained in the decoder, and ~~wherein~~ wherein the counter of each decoder is initialized by said means for comparing said identification data.

28.   (Currently Amended)   ~~D~~ The data management system according to claim 26, ~~wherein~~ wherein only the module that has been declared as master includes the reinitialization means for said counters.

29.   (Currently Amended)   ~~D~~ The data management system according to claim 26, ~~wherein it~~ wherein the data management system includes a supplementary security module as compared to the number of decoders, this supplementary security module being the module declared as master and comprising the means for reinitializing said decoder counters.

30.   (Currently Amended) ~~M~~ A management process for at least two decoders for processing Pay-TV data, said decoders being associated to a subscriber and including means to deactivate the processing of Pay-TV data and a counter that acts on said deactivation means, each subscriber having

at least two removable security modules that can be locally connected to at least one decoder, this process comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- determining of at least one master security module among the security modules belonging to a subscriber,

- storing of the identification data of the master security module in each of the subscriber's decoders,

- deactivating, by means of the counter, of the data processing decoder according to at least one predefined criterion,

- reinitializing of the counter by introducing the master security module into the deactivated decoder.

31.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ The process according to claim 30, ~~wherein it~~ wherein the process includes a verification step of the conformity of the identification data of the master security module.

32.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ The process according to claim 31, ~~wherein~~ wherein the verification step of the conformity of the master security module includes an authentication step of a unique identification number of said security module by means of a pairing key between this master security module and the decoder to be reactivated.

33.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ The process according to claim 30, ~~wherein~~ wherein the deactivation of the data processing is carried out

furthermore by sending a message to at least one of the subscriber's decoders, this message being sent by a management centre.

34.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ The process according to claim 30, ~~wherein~~ wherein the reinitialization of the counter is carried out on the basis of a deactivation value stored in each decoder.

35.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ The process according to claim 34, ~~wherein~~ wherein said deactivation value is transmitted to the decoders by means of an authorization command EMM.

36.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P The~~ process according to claim 30, the decoder being connected to a slave security module that is not authorized to reinitialize the counter of said decoder, ~~wherein it~~ wherein the process includes ~~the following steps~~:
- storing of the Pay-TV data processing activity in the decoder,
- detecting the insertion of the master security module,
- transferring the data of the processing activity to this master security module.

37.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ The process according to claim 30, ~~wherein~~ wherein the processing data stored in the master security module are transmitted to a management centre.

38.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ <u>The p</u>rocess according to claim 36, ~~wherein~~ <u>wherein</u> the processing data stored in the master security module are transmitted to a management centre.

39.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ <u>The p</u>rocess according to claim 37, ~~wherein~~ <u>wherein</u> service data connected to the subscriber is transmitted to said management centre.

40.   (Currently Amended)   ~~P~~ <u>The p</u>rocess according to claim 38, ~~wherein~~ <u>wherein</u> service data connected to the subscriber is transmitted to said management centre.

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END OF CLAIM LISTING

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